



**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
Faculty of Health, Education  
and Life Sciences

**The Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences (HELS) is based at our City South Campus. The Faculty has a strong focus on the training of health and education professionals with a rapidly growing life sciences portfolio.**

HELS is making major investments in growing the quality and volume of research across its three constituent Schools (The Schools of Education and Social Work, Health Sciences, and Nursing and Midwifery) through investments in academic staff and researchers, doctoral students and new labs and equipment. Excellence in Nursing, Health Sciences and Education is essential for the development of new solutions to major societal challenges including the Ageing Population; Sustainability and Health and is driven by the faculties two research Centres: The Centre for Studies in Practice and Culture in Education (CSPACE) and the Centre for Social Care, Health and Related Research (CSCHaRR).

HELS is seeking to recruit a scholar to undertake a Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant (GRTA) post in the area of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

#### **Graduate Research & Teaching Assistants (GRTA):**

GRTA opportunities at Birmingham City University provide you with an opportunity to study for a PhD whilst gaining experience as an Assistant Lecturer on a funded, four-year programme. The GRTA payments consist of two elements:

1. 0.75 GRTA DTG - tax-free stipend paid monthly and has a current (2019/20) value of £11,257 per annum. The bursary is renewable annually for up to 48 months in total, subject to you making satisfactory progression within your PhD research.
2. 0.25 fixed term contract of employment (Assistant Lecturer) - renewable for up to 48 months in total, subject to satisfactory performance and progression within your PhD research. Please note that the pro rata salary for 2017-18 will be £7,213 (and this may be subject to some taxation).

This funding model also includes a FT Home fees studentship (£4,327 for 2019-20) for up to 4 years, subject to you making satisfactory progression within your PhD research.

If you are interested in a career in academia, working as a GRTA enables you to develop a range of transferable skills while building up vital work experience in your field.

GRTA opportunities are open to UK, EU and Overseas applicants. All applicants will receive the same stipend irrespective of fee status, however international applicants may be required to meet the difference in fee costs from their own funds.

#### **How to apply**

**The closing date for applications is 23.59 on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.**

To apply, please complete the [project proposal form](#) and then complete your [online application](#) where you will be required to upload your proposal in place of a personal statement.

You can find further details on studying for a PhD and details of how to apply [here](#)

**Project title:** Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: professional practices, family experiences and social contexts (REF: GRTAFASD)

**Contact:** Dr Carolyn Blackburn (informal enquiries) - [carolyn.blackburn@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:carolyn.blackburn@bcu.ac.uk)

This is an exciting opportunity to undertake research in an emerging and under-researched and interdisciplinary area of special educational needs and disability in the School of Education and Social Work.

The term Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is used as an umbrella term and refers to a range of delays and difficulties associated with alcohol consumption in pregnancy. A large number of children are born every year in the UK with lifelong physical, behavioural or cognitive disabilities caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The prevalence or occurrence of children born with FASD is not known in the UK, although a recent prevalence study for one area of the UK suggests between 7 - 17% (McQuire, Mukherjee and Hurt et. al (2018) and estimates from international prevalence rates vary between 1 per cent to 9 per cent depending on the country and socio-economic and socio-cultural variables (BMA, 2016: 7). FASD has a substantial impact on the lives of children and those that live with them, support them and educate them. Professional knowledge about FASD is limited in most areas of practice (education, social work and health care).

This project offers an exciting opportunity to explore one aspect of professional practice that could be directly transferrable to future degree and CPD programmes.

The successful candidate will investigate an area of social practice relating to FASD drawing on theories of stigma, intersectionality, human-social dignity, social model of disability, human rights frameworks and critical disability studies. Possible areas of investigation include:

- The experiences of parents raising children diagnosed with FASD in the UK.
- Family experiences of adopting a child with FASD.
- Communication and relationships between social workers and families.
- The transition experiences of adults with FASD.

There is an expectation that the successful applicant will teach on education/social work programmes and hold at least a strong undergraduate degree (2:1 or above) in a relevant subject and the necessary practice experience to research with vulnerable participants.

This project will sit in the School of Education and Social Work – Centre for the Study of Practice and Culture in Education ([CSPACE](#)). This new Centre brings together two broad but interlinked areas of research (Health & Education), creating a large critical mass of some 30 research-active staff with a range of expertise across the entire age spectrum, from early years to higher education and adult learning.